

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TC/A.U. 3761

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14, 17-42, 44-53, 55, and 56 are pending in the instant application. Claims 11-13, 17-32, 36, 43, 46, 49, 52 and 54 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 15, 16, 43, and 54 were previously canceled. In the Office Action mailed August 12, 2003, the Examiner finally rejects claims 1-6, 8-10, 14-16, 33, 34, 38-42, 44, 45, 50, 51, and 53, allows claims 55 and 56, and objects to claims 7, 35, 37, 47, and 48.

By virtue of the amendments to the claims presented above, claims 35 and 48 are amended. Amended claim 35 is rewritten in independent form including all of limitations of the base claim 1, as well as incorporating the subject matter of objected-to claim 37. Amended claim 48 is rewritten in independent form including all of limitations of the base claim 44. Claims 1-34, 36-47, and 49-54 are canceled. Based on the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections and objections be withdrawn and that the application be passed to allowance.

1. Remarks on Paragraphs 2, 4, and 7 of the Office Action mailed on August 12, 2003

In paragraphs 2, 4, and 7 of the Office Action mailed on August 12, 2003, the Examiner outlines the rejections of claims 1-6, 8-10, 14, 33, 34, 39-42, 44, 45, 50, 51, and 53. Applicant cancels claims 1-34, 36-47, and 49-54 to put the application in condition for allowance.

2. Remarks on Paragraph 5 of the Office Action mailed on August 12, 2003

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action mailed on August 12, 2003, the Examiner indicates that claims 55 and 56 are allowable. Applicant retains these claims in the instant application.

3. Remarks on Paragraph 6 of the Office Action mailed on August 12, 2003

In paragraph 12 of the Office Action mailed August 12, 2003, the Examiner objects to claims 7, 35, 37, 47, and 48 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement of the allowable subject matter of claims 7, 35, 37, 47, and 48. As described above, Applicant previously re-wrote claims 7 and 47 as claims 55 and 56, respectively, and thus presently cancels claims 7 and 47. Applicant also rewrites claim 35 in independent form including all of limitations of the base claim 1, as well as incorporating the subject matter of objected-to claim 37. Finally, Applicant rewrites claim 48 in independent form including all of limitations of the base claim 44. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 35 and 48, in addition to the previously-allowed claims 55 and 56, are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner.

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In conclusion, and in view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application and the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable consideration and the timely allowance of pending claims 35, 48, 55, and 56. If any additional information is required, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (920) 721-8863.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any prosecutorial fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to our Deposit Account. A duplicate of this sheet is provided.

The undersigned may be reached at: 920-721-8863.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: 

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I, Cynthia M. Trudell, hereby certify that on February 9, 2004, this document is being transmitted via facsimile to: Commissioner for Patents, Right Fax No. 703-872-9306.

By: 

Cynthia M. Trudell